(e) if so, the details of steps being taken by Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION (SHRI RAM NAIK): (a) Yes, Sir. Although RDSO has standardized the specifications for Train Actuated Warning Device, a pilferproof, failsafe reliable system has not yet been developed.

(b) 1. The equipments developed by 2-3 companies including Bharat Electronics are still under trial. A pilferproof, failsafe reliable model is yet to be successfully developed.

2. However, accidents at unmanned level crossings are occurring due to negligence of road users. To contain this type of accidents, railways are taking following safety measures:-

(i) Exhibiting Road Sign Board and providing rumble strips to intimate Road users the presence of unmanned level crossing.

(ii) Ensuring provision of Whistle Boards to pre-warn road users.

(iii) Educative publicity campaign through T.V., Radio, Newspapers, public address system, distribution of pamphlets, displaying of posters at POL outlets.

(iv) Provision of Speed breakers and road signs at the approaches of unmanned level crossings by road authorities.

(v) Involvement of village Panchayats in their Public awareness programmes.

(c) Trail of Train Actuated Warning Device of RDSO's specification is being undertaken at manned Level Crossings on Western Railway and Eastern Railway in co-ordination with RDSO.

(d) and (e) No, Sir. For the guidance of drivers, whistle boards have been provided on all unmanned level crossing gates. Periodically drives are launched to counsel the train drivers to whistle while approaching the level crossings to pre-warn the road users.

Officers working in the Directorates of Railway Board

768. SHRI JALALUDIN ANSARI: Will the Minister RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that atleast sixty officers are working in the same directorate of Railway Board i.e. stores, traffic, engineering, commercial, electrical, establishment, mechanical, etc., as section officer, Dy. Director, Joint Director and Executive Director for the last ten to twelve years continuously;

(b) if so, the details thereof, with names of officers; and

(c) the norms/rules and period fixed by the Ministry for a person to work in the same directorate of Railway Board?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION (SHRI RAM NAIK): (a) to (c) In the office of Railway Board, some posts are manned by officers of Organised Railway Services, drawn from Zonal Railways/ Production Units on tenure basis which is 3 years for Senior Scale officers, 4 years for Junior Administrative Grade officers and 5 years for Selection Grade and Senior Administrative Grade officers. No officer from Organised Railway Services is working in Board's office in the same Directorate for more than 10 years.

There are some posts in Railway Board's office which are manned by officers of Railway Board Secretariat Service (RBSS). In this category although there are some officers who had been working in the same Directorate, in lower grades, but there is no officer who has been working in the same grade in the same Directorate for more than 10 years.

For the smooth functioning of Directorate concerned, the controlling officers desire to have some experienced hands and therefore, on promotion, some of the officers are retained in the same Directorate. Even in the same Directorate there is wide difference between the functions and responsibilities of different posts. This difference is more prominent between the lower grade and higher grade

posts. Thus posting against each post is unique in nature.

As regards transfer policy in Board's office, in normal course officers working in Establishment and Public dealing sections are rotated after they continue in the same post for more than 4/5 years. However, some officers are permitted to continue in the administrative interest to maintain continuity and availability of expertise particularly in the Branches where there have been changes of incumbency in the senior posts.

Renewal of book stall contract

769. SHRI GAYA SINGH: Will the Minister RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that every book stall contract is renewed for a period of five years as per procedure laid down by the Ministry;

(b) whether this procedure is being violated by the Eastern and South Eastern Railways in renewing the bookstall contracts for a period of one year basis for harassing the contractors; and

(c) if so, the details/reasons thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING & PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION (SHRI RAM NAIK): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) Does not arise.

Restriction on sale of all India railway time tables published by private parties

770. SHRI GAYA SINGH: Will the Minister RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any restriction on the sale of All India time tables ('at a glance') as well as Zonal Railway time tables, published by private parties, on book stalls at Railway stations; and

(b) if so, the details of guidelines in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION (SHRI RAM NAIK): (a) and (b) 'Trains At a Glance' is a copyright publication of Indian Railways. Hence, it cannot be re-produced or sold by unauthorised persons. However, some Time-Tables containing airlines schedules, train timings and tourist information are published and sold by private parties. These private time tables are not authenticated by Railways and Railways do not take any responsibility for the material published therein.

Passenger traffic on routes connecting four metropolitan cities

771. SHRI SANJAY NIRUPAM: Will the Minister RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) what steps Railways are contemplating to meet the increasing demand of passenger traffic on routes connecting four metropolitan cities of Mumbai, Delhi, Calcutta and Chennai; and

(b) when will the confirmed reservation on the day of journey on trains to above cities be available?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION (SHRI RAM NAIK): (a) Besides augmenting the load of existing services keeping in view the operational feasibility, availability of stock and traffic justification, a weekly Super Deluxe Express between Howrah and Mumbai and a tri-weekly Express between Howrah and Tiruchirappali via Chennai will be introduced during the current year. Besides, extra coaches are also attached and special trains are also run on these corridors to clear extra rush of passengers during Summer/Pooja/winter holidays, etc.

(b) There is a gap between the demand and the availability of reserved accommondation in certain trains running on important routes. However, Tatkal reservation scheme has been introduced on many trains to provide